## 36 ALICE'S ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND

"Would it be of any use, now," thought Alice, "to speak to this mouse? Everything is so outof-the-way down here, that I should think very likely it can talk: at any rate, there's no harm in trying." So she began: "O Mouse, do you know the way out of this pool? I am very tired of swimming about here, O Mouse!" (Alice thought this must be the right way of speaking to a mouse: she had never done such a thing before, but she remembered having seen, in her brother's Latin Grammar, "A mouse—of a mouse—to a mouse—a mouse—O mouse!" The mouse looked at her rather inquisitively, and seemed to her to wink with one of its little eyes, but it said nothing.

"Perhaps it doesn't understand English," thought Alice. "I daresay it's a French mouse, come over with William the Conqueror." (For, with all her knowledge of history, Alice had no very clear notion how long ago anything had happened.) So she began again: "Où est ma chatte?", which was the first sentence in her French lessonbook. The Mouse gave a sudden leap out of the water, and seemed to quiver all over with fright. "Oh, I beg your pardon!" cried Alice hastily, afraid that she had hurt the poor animal's feelings. "I quite forgot you didn't like cats."

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"Not like cats!" cried the Massionate voice. "Would you were me?"

"Well, perhaps not," said Altone: "don't be angry about it. I could show you our cat Dinaltake a fancy to cats, if you could show you our cat Dinaltake a fancy to cats, if you could she is such a dear quiet thing, half to herself, as she swam language pool, "and she sits purring so a licking her paws and washing his such a nice soft thing to nurse a capital one for catching mice—pardon!" cried Alice again, if Mouse was bristling all over, and it must be really offended. "We her any more, if you'd rather in

"We, indeed!" cried the Moubling down to the end of its tail talk on such a subject! Our facats: nasty, low, vulgar things! the name again!"

"I wo'n't indeed!" said Alice to change the subject of conver —are you fond—of—of dogs? not answer, so Alice went on e